

Media release

ALA launches #AdultEd4All campaign

Adult Learning Australia (ALA) is calling for a federal government that supports and funds high quality adult community education (ACE) programs that are responsive to community need and make Australia a fairer place for everyone.

‘Opportunities to continue to learn throughout our lives are essential — not just for a more knowledgeable workforce — but for our physical and mental well-being, the health of our communities and for a just and democratic civil society,’ Jenny Macaffer, CEO.

All adult Australians must have access to quality ACE programs when they need it.

ALA is calling on the major parties to:

- Recognise and invest in adult and community education.
- Develop a national adult literacy strategy.
- Build the capacity of the adult educator workforce.
- Prioritise a long-term approach to lifelong learning.
- Take action on the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 4 Education and Lifelong Learning.

‘We need a national approach that is fairer and includes adult education programs that build a bridge between adults with low skills and learning opportunities. ACE programs offer vital support to the 1 in 7 Australians whose literacy skills prevent them from completing everyday tasks.

‘The reality is that those most in need are deprived of opportunities to re-engage in education, entrenching disadvantage and making them vulnerable to unemployment and social isolation,’ Jenny Macaffer, CEO says.

‘These issues are exacerbated by a severely under-resourced and undervalued ACE sector, which is more important now than ever in the face of climate change, COVID, rapid technological change, an ageing population and higher demands for literacy in the workplace.’

ENDS

About ALA

Adult Learning Australia is the national peak body for adult and community education with over 1,400 members representing all states and territories of Australia.

More details

<https://ala.asn.au/election-2022/>

Media contact

Visit www.ala.asn.au or call 03 9689 8623 for more information

Endorsements

ALA's campaign is endorsed by:

- Australian Council of Adult Literacy
- Australian Council for Adult Education and Development
- Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association
- Literacy for Life
- ACEVictoria
- Community Colleges Australia
- Neighbourhood Houses Victoria
- Community Centres SA

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